(c) Though it was the original objective set for the Seventh Plan to give a telephone connection practically on demand by 1990 it is not feasible due to resource constraints. The date when this will be feasible depends upon the availability of resources.

Exemption to de licensed Industries

676. PROF. M. LAKSHMANNA: Wil] the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.-

(a) whether Government have decided to exempt all de-licensed industries including shipping and hotel from the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the advantages of the above measures; and

(d) whether it is not a departure from the Industrial Policy followed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Central Government has exempted the following industries from the requirement of obtaining an approval under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969: —

1. Shipping Industry;
2. Hotel Industry; and
3. Delicensed industries.

Th$_e$ exemption has been notified in exercise of the powers vested in the Central Government under Section 22A of the said Act.

(c) The basic approach behind the measure is to channelise investment by the large industrial houses in the above industries which ar$_e$ either capital intensive in nature or are prone to high risks or involve sophisticated technology or would result in the development of no-industry districts in the country.

(d) No, Sir.

Closure of small paper mills

677. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the closure of 57 small paper mills in the country due to a serious demand recession; and

(b) if so$_i$ what remedial measures have been taken by Government to ease the problem being faced by the small paper mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM); (a) According to information available, 22 small paper mills are lying closed at present on account of various problems faced by them, such as management deficiency, shortage of raw material iand power obsolescence of machinery, financial problems, etc.

(b) The problems of the small paper mills are kept ln view while formulating appropriate remedial measures. A package of fiscal reliefs, by way of excise concessions for use of unconventional raw materials and reduction/waiver of customs duty for imported raw materials has been extended to the paper industry. Infrastructural support has also been improved by increasing allocation of coal to the industry.

Performance of Public Sector Undertakings

678 SHRl RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings which made profits